

October 11, 2002

TO: Groundwater and Drinking Water Work Group Members

FROM: Sarah Pillsbury, Drinking Water Source Protection Program Manager

SUBJECT: GROUNDWATER AND DRINKING WATER STRATEGY UPDATE

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I am pleased to provide you with the third Update Report on the New Hampshire Groundwater and Drinking Water Strategy that was finalized in August 2000. As the attached report indicates, progress continues to be made in a number of areas. Highlights include:

- Creation and implementation of the Water Supply Land Grant Program which to date has resulted in the protection of 2083 acres of land critical to the protection of water supplies in Raymond, Portsmouth, Dover, Durham, Stratham, Hollis, Epsom and Nashua;
- Assessment of the potential misuse of stormwater systems discharging to public water supply sources;
- Creation and implementation of a private well initiative to encourage increased sampling of private wells;
- Incorporation of well abandonment outreach into the extensive outreach to realtors, home inspectors, mortgage lenders and home builders being performed under the private well initiative and creation and distribution of a fact sheet targeting proper abandonment of monitoring wells at contaminated sites;
- Completion of time of travel studies on water supply rivers for emergency response planning;
- Development of a model rule for the protection of public water supply watersheds;
- Development of a grant program to assist small agricultural operations with addressing potential contamination sources affecting public water supply watersheds;
- Revision and implementation of the Groundwater and Drinking Water Outreach Plan;
- Development of a document entitled "Managing Stormwater as a Valuable Resource" to engage local officials in the issue of the loss of storm water recharge in developing areas;
- Improvement of the Water System Operator Course curriculum;
- Development of a flyer to provide information to the general public on understanding risk (a distribution plan is under development);
- Development of an Emergency Plan Template to assist water systems in meeting new State and Federal emergency planning requirements;
- Ongoing work with USGS to increase understanding of groundwater availability;
- Completion of water conservation fact sheets, development of water conservation conferences with the Business and Industry WasteCap Program, and initiation of water conservation BMP rules in accordance with a new law requiring water use efficiency for new large water withdrawals; and
- Completion of research and initiation of measures to foster regionalization of water systems for mutual aid and maximization of water supply resources.

Due to more resources being dedicated to groundwater withdrawal permitting than was initially anticipated, and, more recently, to emergency preparedness and addressing issues caused by the prolonged drought, progress in some areas has been delayed. The Department expects that increased resources will continue to be needed in the groundwater availability and emergency preparedness areas throughout the coming year, although we remain committed to continued progress on completing Strategy goals. The attached update provides the status of each task and provides information concerning any delays or changes to the Strategy.

Thank you for your continued interest and participation in the Groundwater and Drinking Water Protection Strategy. If you have any questions regarding this Update Report please contact me at 603-271-1168 or by e-mail at [spillsbury@des.state.nh.us](mailto:spillsbury@des.state.nh.us).